and to take steps for a systematic interaction amongst the users and the Research and Development institutions concerned with the activities of the Ministry.

(ii) To advise on policies and programmes to develop indigenous capabilities in scientific and technological research.

(iii) To evolve short-term and long-term objectives and plans for upgradation of technology in areas related to the business of the Ministry.

(iv) To advise on measures for technology absorption, adaptation and improvement in a planned manner.

(v) To advise on technological inputs which would improve productivity, quality and reliability of products or services and reduce costs, in areas relevant to the Ministry.

(vi) To recommend, where possible, specific support for scientific research and technology development to institutions or to investigators.

(vii) To examine any other matter related to science and technology which may be referred to the Committee by the Government for advice.

Gap in demand and supply of power

3852. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 30,000 MW gap in demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) whether the projection of 50,000 MW power is likely to be achieved during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) what extra precautions Government are taking to see that Ninth Five Year Plan projections are realised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During July, 1996, against a requirement of 59932 MW, the availability was 48004 MW, resulting in a peak power shortage of 11928 MW.

(b) and (c) The capacity addition programme for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of the entire country is yet to be finalised. The Government is taking all necessary steps to ensure that slippages in capacity addition do not arise which include, inter alia, streamlining and simplification of project clearance procedures etc.

Cumulative losses of State Electricity Boards

3853. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative losses of State Electricity Boards at end of March, 1996;

(b) the Board factors responsible for these losses; and

(c) the steps taken to make the SEBs, commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) In terms of the provision of Sub-Section 4 of Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the accounts of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such, the accounts for the year 1995-96 are not available. However, the cumulative losses of the SEBs at the end of March, 1995 were Rs. 873.34 crores after taking into account RE subsidy as provided in the accounts.